

REMARKS

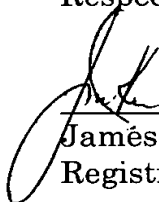
The rejection of claims 1 and 13 as being anticipated by Aoki et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and of Claim 3 as being unpatentable over Aoki et al. under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly solicited in light of the attached verified translation of applicants' priority document establishing an effective filing date of October 20, 2000 which is earlier than Aoki et al's. U.S. filing date of March 15, 2001.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.50366US).

Respectfully submitted,

March 5, 2004



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